

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS ON NORAD AGREEMENT

REF; OTTAWA 1508

1. THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE ISSUED ON APRIL 22 ITS REPORT ON "CANADIAN POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF CONTINUING DEFENCE COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. AND IN PARTICULAR WITH THE FUTURE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE AGREEMENT." (SEVEN COPIES OF THE REPORT SENT TO EUR/CAN BY POUCH.)

2. REPORT REVIEWS THE HISTORY OF THE NORAD AGREEMENT, DESCRIBES THE NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, NORAD'S PLACE IN FUTURE CANADIAN AIR DEFENCE POLICY, THE DURATION OF A RENEWED NORAD AGREEMENT, AND SUBMITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. IN ITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 1) THAT THE "GOVERNMENT ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE NORAD AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS SUBJECT TOTERMINATION--AS HAS BEEN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CASE TO DATE BY EITHER COUNTRY, ON ONE YEAR'S NOTICE...

2) THAT THE QUESTION OF CANADA'S FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN NORAD BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE...WELL BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF THE NEW AGREEMENT...3) YOUR COMMITTEE STRONGLY FAVOURS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW NORAD REGION IN EASTERN CANADA...4) THAT THE NEW NORAD AGREEMENT PROVIDE THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SENIOR CANADIAN AND AMERICAN OFFICERS SERVING WITH NORAD SHOULD BE PUBLIC INFORMATION. IT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT CONTAIN PROVISION ENSURING THAT, IN THE EVENT OF A U.S. NATIONAL ALERT--AS DISTINCT FROM A NORAD ALERT--CANADIAN OFFICERS ON DUTY AT NORAD HEADQUARTERS SHOULD BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY BY UNITED STATES PERSONNEL TO THE EXTENT THAT THESE CANADIAN OFFICERS WERE PERFORMING CONAD COMMAND FUNCTIONS...5) THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THE CURRENT PRIORITIES ASSIGNED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO NORAD. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASSERT THAT NORAD NO LONGER HAS AS ITS PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE FULL SCALE DEFENCE OF THE CONTINENT AGAINST MANNED BOMBERS. YOUR COMMITTEE CONCURS WITH THE MODIFIED OBJECTIVES OF NORAD; 1) PROVIDING EARLY WARNING OF A SURPRISE ATTACK ON NORTH AMERICA; 2) SURVEILLANCE OF SPACE; AND 3) SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OF SOVEREIGN AIR SPACE, WHICH INCLUDES PROVIDING A LIMITED AIR DEFENCE IN A TIME OF CRISIS."

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